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The European Dance of Death.

The condition in Europe beggars description. The older men of our day well remember the bloody years of the Civil War, the fierce battle of Königgrätz, the desolating campaigns of the Franco-Prussian conflict of 1870, the deadly Russo-Turkish battles of 1878, the South African War, the Spanish-American contest in Cuba, the Russo-Japanese conflict, the Italian-Turkish fight in the desert.

One had supposed that the world had had enough of war during these fifty years, in a time which we had fondly called *civilized*, and many had come to believe that the era of great wars was practically over.

But here we are, witnessing in a so-called civilized Europe such scenes of slaughter and desolation as the times of pure barbarism never excelled. Millions of men on the West, other millions on the East and

on the North, are struggling with each other in deadly array, each day adding its monstrous toll of death to the heaped-up slain of the previous day; men burrowing like wild animals in wet and dirty trenches, rushing upon their enemies in lightning-swift armored automobiles, dropping cruel bombs from airships upon cities and luckless homes; fierce cavalry and infantry charges sweeping away whole regiments, siege guns big and fierce enough to destroy whole armies, scarcely a family in any part of the belligerent countries without dead and wounded to mourn over; commerce and industry disorganized or paralyzed everywhere, priceless works of art ruined, one neutral and innocent nation practically destroyed, government officials declaring that there will be no talk of peace without victory, even to the last man! Such is the terrible spectacle in so-called Christian Europe today. It looks as if God had totally forsaken the land and all the cohorts of hell had been let loose.

John Bright used to say in the House of Commons and elsewhere, at the spectacle of the numerous wars which England was waging during his time, that either the nation should stop those deadly and disgraceful orgies or frankly proceed to pull down its churches and chapels and cease to call itself Christian. What would Bright have said if he had seen all the great powers of Europe spending nearly fifty millions of dollars a day in a combined conflict which is destroying monthly not less than 250,000 of the ablest-bodied men of the time and heaping upon the rest such colossal debts as can never be paid!

And this is WAR, inherited from the ignorant past, rooted in immemorial customs and beliefs, *improved* and *refined* by every device of science and cunning art! Intelligent men are making every effort conceivable to set forth adequately the cause or causes of this dire catastrophe. Other men, among the wisest and most far-sighted, are trying to devise means by which the deadly conflict may be speedily ended and a permanent peace of Europe and the world established. These are great, ennobling tasks, and still they are not done, and will not likely be finished for many a day.

The greatest lesson, however, of the awful conflict, to which we must all give immediate and undivided attention from this time on, in every possible way, is that war itself, as it has always been, is a cruel, deadly, inhuman, irrational, unprofitable, immoral, unchristian institution, unworthy of humanity. Whenever the *people* of the nations come to realize this simple truth, and begin seriously to act upon it, Europe will never again see such a heartrending spectacle as is now being witnessed.